

LOCAL HISTORY  
Woodbridge - Police Dept

HISTORY OF  
WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

BY  
RUTH WOLK

Princeton File - cont 2/2  
 History of Woodbridge  
 Township Police  
 Dept. (Wolk) 1939

Name		School
Thomas Quinn		Middle MCC
Keith Hughes		WMS
Butt Bullock		WMS
Ashley Wolff		CMS
Nakema Vega		FMS
Jake Donnelly		CMS
John Patock		FMS
Jake Donnelly		CMS
W. W. W.		CMS
Clare Gomes		AMS
Trey Singley		CMS
Robert Harris		CMS
Thomas Cialla		CMS
<del>Raymond</del> Hicks		CMS

History Of

WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

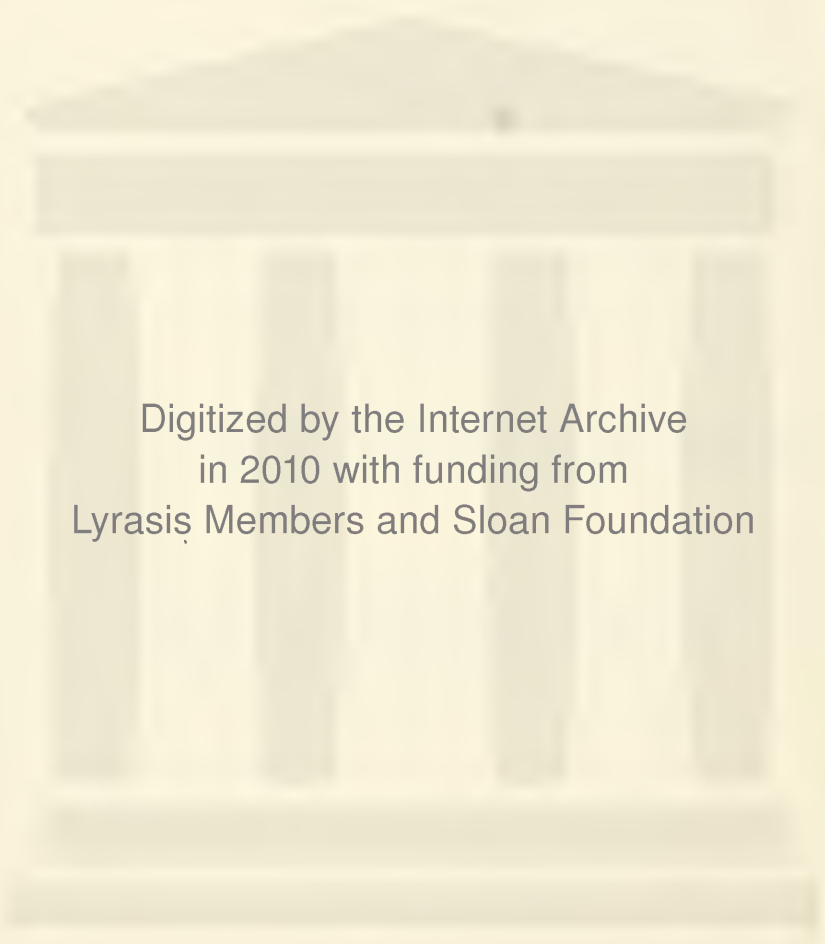
BY

RUTH WOLK

Woodbridge Independent-Leader, Woodbridge, N. J.

Dedicated to Police Chief George E. Keating  
and Police Commissioner Herbert B. Rankin

November 1, 1939



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HISTORY OF  
WOODBIDGE(TOWNSHIP (NEW JERSEY) POLICE DEPARTMENT.

BY  
RUTH WOLK.

Chapter 1.

If W. S. Anness, the first police commissioner of Woodbridge Township, could return today he would find, that despite the radio hook-up, finger printing system, and other modern methods of combating crime, the duties of a policeman are very much the same today as they were back in February, 1896 when the first appropriation of \$600 was "raised for constable and police hire."

The late Patrick "Paddy" Cullinane, uncle of the present police clerk, Sergeant Allan McDonnell, was the first policeman of record. "Big Paddy" as he was known throughout the Township on account of his immense size, was made a constable in 1895 and a police officer in 1896.

At a meeting held on April 29, 1896, at which Commissioner Anness and Committeemen E. W. Christie and E. A. Ames were present, a motion was passed for an appropriation of \$360 a year to have a man to keep out all unlicensed peddlers, etc." Today, Chief of Police George E. Keating has the same trouble even though a peddler's and canvasser's ordinance is in effect. Many peddlers try to avoid the necessary fingerprinting now mandatory before they can secure a permit.

On May 14, 1896 we find Patrick Cullinane named as first police officer. The minutes of the meeting read as follows:

"Upon the report of Mr. Winfield S. Anness, who was duly appointed at the previous meeting of this Township committee to make arrangements with some person to act as police officer in the Township, upon his report that he has made arrangements with Patrick Cullinane to act as same. This committee upon motion does hereby employ said Patrick Cullinane to act as police officer until the further orders of this committee."

Immediately after Cullinane's appointment the police committee began to pass rules and regulations. One of the notices printed and posted in the Township read as follows:

"Notice is Hereby Given: that after this date all tramps found within the limits of the Township of Woodbridge will be arrested and compelled to work on the roads in a chain gang for a period of twenty-four hours."

The next ruling compelled owners of vehicles carrying 1,500 pounds or over on macadamized roads to have tires not less than three inches wide.

Mention of another officer is made in the minutes of 1896 when William D. Casey was appointed special officer for one year "with full power under the act of 1877".

Then the committee got busy again and passed a bicycle ordinance (on September 19, 1896) which prohibited anything on wheels on sidewalks "except women with baby carriages and children under 10 years old on tricycles and bicycles."

The name of the late Patrick W. Murphy, first real chief of police of Woodbridge Township and commonly referred to as "the grand old man of the police department", first



appears on the Township's records on March 13, 1897, when he was named constable.

Then on April 8, 1897, Patrick Cullinane was reappointed police officer. The minutes read as follows:

"A Communication was read from storekeepers and citizens residing on principal streets of the village asking for re-appointment of Patrick Cullinane as a special officer for the ensuing year. Moved and carried that the chairman appoint a Police Commissioner for the ensuing year and to report at the next meeting. The chairman appointed C. M. Liddle as Police Commissioner.

At the next meeting April 22, 1897, we read:

"On recommendation of Mr. C. M. Liddle, the committee heretofore appointed to employ persons to act as police for the protection of the inhabitants of Woodbridge, said committee hereby recommends the employment of two persons to act as police officers, one during the day time and one during the night time and that the salary be fixed at \$40.00 per month each and that they be employed monthly as directed by said committee, one during the day and one during the night, said committee hereby recommends Patrick Cullinane and James Lahey to act as said officers the same to go into effect on May 1, 1897. Moved and carried that the above recommendations be accepted."

According to the records, Lahey worked as an officer but 11 months. The late Thomas F. Dunigan, one of the most respected citizens of Woodbridge, was then appointed Police Commissioner. Under Commissioner Dunigan's jurisdiction we find the real beginning of a police department, for on March

22, 1898, the "two Paddies", Patrick Cullinane and Patrick W. Murphy were named as official members of the police department "to act from April 1, 1898 at the rate of \$40.00 a month" and authorization was given Mr. Dunigan to purchase uniforms for them.

Demand for police protection evidently increased for on June 15, 1899, Charles S. Walling was named as police officer for Carteret (then part of Woodbridge) at a salary of \$40.00 a month. At the same session the chairman of the Township committee announced that C. M. Liddle would again serve as police commissioner.

But it was not all smooth sailing for the small police group. On September 6, 1900 the police officers of Woodbridge were ordered "to appear before the committee on Thursday at 8:00 P. M. to answer the complaints of George H. Brown in regards to crowds congregating on his corner (evidently the corner of Main and Fulton Streets)". The officers appeared before the committee, and, according to the records, "explained that the crowds gather when they are at other places and disperse as soon as the officers appear." The officers were "instructed by the chairman to be more active in the matter and to watch Mr. Brown's corner especially and to see to it that they were not brought before the committee again."

The committee evidently decided to "modernize" the department for on September 14, 1900, the members passed a motion authorizing the purchase of a bicycle for the policeman at Carteret, not to exceed \$35, but in the following month the order was rescinded at the request of Officer Walling, who pointed out that a bicycle could not be used during the winter



months. He evidently preferred an overcoat instead for we find an order for winter uniforms and "an overcoat for Policeman Walling."

At the turn of the century, the "department" received a "break" in the form of a \$5.00 a month raise, making the salaries \$45.00 a month, and the striking out of the word "year" from the appointment of police. From that time on appointments were expected to run indefinitely at the discretion of the committee.

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## Chapter 2.

With the birth of the new century, it became necessary to pass an appropriation for the new police "department" in the Township and after a lengthy debate an appropriation of \$1,500 was decided upon. In the minutes of February 19, 1900 , we read:

"After discussion, moved and carried that the committee recommend to the primary meetings the following appropriation for the ensuing year: Police \$1,500."

"What a comparison that makes with our budget for 35 policemen today: Personal services, \$94,000; other than personal services, \$10,000!

On May 1, 1900 an application was received from W. F. Turner, who evidently wished to become a policeman but the application was placed on file and, as far as can be determined from the records, nothing else was done about it.

The police department of three was not large enough for special officers were needed for the various elections. On March 11, 1901, John Omenhiser, John Thompson and Herman Gerke were named as special officers for the election of March 12, to serve at poles one, two and three respectively.

Vacations for the police department were the next worry of the committee, but on August 8, 1901, the matter was brought up and the subject was continued for We read

in the minutes of August 8, 1901:

"Regularly moved and seconded that the matter of policemen's vacations be laid over until the next meeting."

A condition, caused by dogs running-at-large, took up the time of the Township committee in May of 1902. It is a problem that has been partially solved nowadays by the appointment of a dog warden. After several discussions the committee decided that the police officers, Patrick Murphy, Patrick Cullinane and Charles Walling "be invested with full authority to kill all dogs found running at large after June 5th, which have not been licensed by or registered with the Township Clerk and which do not carry a collar bearing the license number unless such dogs are muzzled."

"Resolved, further, that a notice of this resolution be published in the Weekly Register and Woodbridge News (forerunners of the Independent-Leader) and the Perth Amboy Republican on May 26, 1902."

The bicycle that Officer Walling refused in the previous winter in favor of a winter uniform and overcoat, was finally purchased for him to cover his beat in Carteret. J. A. Hermann, a member of the Township committee from the Carteret district, was empowered to purchase the bicycle on June 17, 1902 at a cost not exceeding \$50.

Boynton Beach, Sewaren, in those days, was the "tops" in Seaside resorts. Hotels lined the beach and people came here from far and wide for their vacations. One July 31, 1902, the people of Sewaren requested the appointment of a policeman for their section, evidently to cover the beach area and on July 10, 1902, it was "moved and carried

(by the Township committee) that a special officer be appointed for Sewaren for four months at a compensation of \$45 per month". At the following meeting, on July 29, 1902, Hans Simonsen (who later became a regular officer, now on pension, and a member of a family that later made police work its profession) was named policeman for the time specified, to go on duty on August 1 and have Sewaren as his beat.

At the same time Officer Walling was informed that his hours had been changed. He was to go on duty at 5 P. M., and work until 4 A. M.

After a month's deliberation, September 4, 1902, the committee granted the police officers a week's vacation and the clerk was "to notify them which week they are to have when instructed to do so by the committee."

Officer Walling again found his hours changed--this time his tour of duty started at three o'clock in the afternoon and ended at one o'clock in the morning-- ten hours of work daily for \$45 a month!

Charles Levi, father of Barron Levi, was appointed by the Township committee, to act as special officer for three weeks to give the three regular policemen each one week's vacation. This resolution was adopted on October 9, 1902. On the thirty-first day of the same month, Hans Simonsen tendered his resignation as special policeman for Sewaren.

In the following year, February 5, 1903, we find a petition of the residents of Carteret "applying for a special policeman, and six days later, John Donovan was

named special officer for that district for one month "beginning February 12 at a compensation of \$45 a month, hours to be from 9 o'clock P. M., to 5 o'clock A. M." Donovan was later made a regular officer.

For the third time in a short period, Officer Walling's hours were changed, this time he was to work from 9 P. M., to 5 A. M. Committeeman Hermann was named as a committeeman of one to arrange the beats in Carteret.

A second raise in salary is noted for the police officers in March of 1903 when a resolution informs us that "Patrick Eullinane, Patrick Murphy, Charles Walling and John Donovan be appointed policemen for the ensuing year at a salary of \$50 per month".

The following month, J. M. McElroy, father of the present Township Attorney, Leon E. McElroy, was authorized to purchase uniforms and equipment for the department. The officers were all dressed up:

With the spring of the year, Sewaren wanted a special officer again, and Michael Coffey, who now resides in Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, and who, at that time, lived in Sewaren, was appointed "night policeman at Sewaren for six months, to go on duty on May 1st, 1903 at a compensation of \$50 per month and that the chairman appoint a committee of one to purchase the proper outfit." H. C. Turner, of Sewaren, was appointed on the committee.

So in the year of 1903, Woodbridge Township, which included Carteret, boasted of a police force of five men whose main duties seemed to be arresting drunks and persons carrying concealed weapons. Records of arrests show that the majority of arrests was for drunkenness--and as far as can be determined the only reason seemed to be that "there was nothing else to do." Among the foreign elements the carrying of guns and knives appeared to be the favorite pastime and orders came to see to it that the habit was broken.

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Patrick Cullinane and Patrick J. Murphy

Chapter 3.

Hans Simonsen, father of Desk Sergeant Andrew Simonsen and Motorcycle Officer Rudolph Simonsen, again came into the police picture on September 21, 1903, when, for the second time he was named special officer for the purpose of relieving the Woodbridge-proper policemen so that they each could take a week's vacation.

Then, on October 8, 1903, the people of Sewaren appeared before the Township committee and demanded that they be given a full-time policeman for their district. Michael Coffey, who had been named a special officer for the summer months, was continued as a regular policeman for Sewaren.

Street corner gangs, the bane of every cop's existence, continued to draw numerous complaints, and at the same meeting the clerk was authorized to notify the officers that there had been several complaints in "regard to the people standing on the corners around town". The policemen were also urged to enforce the bicycle ordinance which prohibited the use of sidewalks to cyclists.

The Lighting Commissioners, of the old days, had their troubles, too, and, on January 4, 1904, the following notation was made in the minutes:

"Moved and carried that the clerk be instructed to notify Officers Cullinane and Murphy that complaint has been made

by the light commissioners that several of the lights have been broken, asking them to give this matter their attention."

Port Reading, evidently felt the need of police protection, for on March 3, 1904, the residents of that section submitted a petition requesting the appointment of a regular policeman. The matter was referred to the committee as a whole for consideration and on April 14, 1904, Samuel Moore was appointed a regular officer at Port Reading for the ensuing year. Committeeman C. S. Farrell was named committee of one to purchase the uniform and equipment for Officer Moore.

Very few old timers recall that Woodbridge Township built a town hall and lock-up for the Carteret section, just before Carteret broke away from Woodbridge to become first the Borough of Roosevelt and later the Borough of Carteret. In fact, Joseph Hermann, who in 1904 was the chairman of the Township committee, was a Carteret resident and one of the advocates of the secession from Woodbridge. Judging from the minutes of the meetings at that time, it appears as if the Carteret members knew the break was about due and tried to get as much as they could for Carteret before the ties were broken. Carteret roads were repaired by the score.

We first find mention of the lock-up in the minutes of April 26, 1904, when, on a suggestion made by Chairman Hermann, C. M. Liddle and C. S. Farrell were appointed a "committee of two to negotiate for a suitable lot for the lockup at Carteret and report back at the next meeting."

The lot finally chosen is the site where the triangle

is now located in Carteret, on Roosevelt Avenue.

Very little appears in the minutes regarding the Carteret lock-up and town hall until July 8, 1904, when it was "moved and carried that specifications for the new town hall at Carteret prepared by A. W. Carroll be accepted and adopted. Moved and carried that the architect's compensation for plans and specifications shall be \$180. Moved and carried that the clerk be authorized to advertise for brick for construction of a town hall at Carteret in the Woodbridge News and Register, bids to be received at Town Hall, Woodbridge, at 8:30 o'clock P. M., on July 26, 1904."

On July 26, 1904, bids were received as follows:

Mercer Construction Company-----	\$4,324
Henderson Brothers	----- 4,442
Hans Hansen	----- 4,560
Randolph Lee	----- 3,600

All certified checks were returned except the check of Randolph Lee, whose bid was turned over to the committee for further consideration. On August 5 of the same year, Mr. Lee appeared before the committee and "presented a sample of brick that would be used on the Carteret lock-up, provided he received the contract."

However, the committee must have decided against Mr. Lee's proposals, for on August 31, his bid and certified check were returned and the clerk was authorized to advertise for bids "for the construction of a lock-up in Carteret in the Woodbridge News and Register on revised plans that can

be had at the office of the Township clerk, bids to be received on September 7, 1904." On that date only one bid was received, that of Hans Hansen, who was awarded the contract on his bid of \$2,850.

On May 8, 1905, the committee met in special session, the "object of the meeting being to examine the Carteret lock-up. The committee was satisfied to accept the building after one or two small defects were remedied. Mr. Carroll, the architect, O. K.'d the bill."

At the same session, Committeeman Liddle and Farrell were authorized to purchase the necessary furniture for the new lock-up and on January 6, 1906 a motion was made by J. A. Hermann, that John Donovan, the police officer, "be given the use of the upper apartments of the Carteret lock-up and be furnished with water, fuel and light, he in return to care for the building and look after any and all prisoners that may be confined in same but to receive an allowance of 20 cents for each meal furnished to prisoners." Donovan later became a Carteret police officer, when the borough became a municipality of its own.

In the year 1904, the police department received plenty of attention from the Township committee. In April of that year a police committee was named "for the purpose of devising ways and means for regulating the police force," and at the same time the committee was empowered to get, of all things, a time clock on trial subject to the approval of the committee. On June 14, the police officers of Woodbridge and Carteret were notified that their hours of duty would be as follows:

Day men: 7:30 A. M., to 12 noon; 1:30 P. M., to 7 P. M.

Night men and Sewaren and Port Reading officers: 7 P. M., to midnight; 1 A. M., to 5 A. M. At the same time the police committee was authorized to purchase the time clock and to regulate the times the officers were to record their names.

Up until 1905 the Justices of the Peace took care of police cases, most of them being heard in the justices' homes. Very few, if any records were kept. We first see mention of a police recorder in the minutes of April 6, 1905 when J. L. Dunn submitted an application for the position of recorder. But Mr. Dunn did not get the appointment for at the meeting of May 2, 1905, R. J. Wylie was named recorder for the ensuing year. Old timers tell me that Mr. Wylie held court in the store next to the railroad tracks on Main Street, which was last occupied by the "Ruby and Cal Dry Cleaning Co."

At the same meeting, another addition to the police force was made with the appointment of Michael McDonald, of Port Reading. Mr. McDonald's beat was in his home town.

A resolution was then adopted which reads as follows:

"Resolved that the clerk notify the policemen that they must register at their respective places as previously instructed by the committee as a copy of such report will be filed on the first Thursday of each month with the committee, this notice to take effect immediately."

Budget time came around again on June 1, 1905 with the police appropriation this time set at \$4,000. The entire budget reads as follows:



"Resolved that the following amounts be raised by taxation:

"Township purposes ----	\$4,500
"Roads and Bridges ----	3,500
"Outside Poor ----	2,500
"Macadamizing ----	6,000
"Police ----	4,000
" Assessors' Maps ----	<u>1,000</u>
Total	\$21,500."

Officer "Paddy" Cullinane experienced some difficulty in remembering to punch the time clock that had been installed in the Woodbridge lock-up and on June 8, 1905 he was notified that "the committee in examining the register clock finds that he has not registered regularly" and that he must register at the stated intervals as instructed.

The year 1906 arrived and with it came the complaints of the citizenry that there was considerable gambling being done by the youth of the Township in a Main Street store. With a view of taking measures to put a stop to the practice the clerk was instructed to communicate with Officers Murphy and Cullinane asking them to appear before the committee on January 30, of that year. At the session, Committeeman Farrell instructed the officers to take every advisable step to stop gambling in the Township.

11/11/11

## Chapter Four.

The years 1906 and 1907 were periods of readjustment not only for the police department but for the entire Township for in the former year, the municipality now known as Carteret, broke away from the Township to become the Borough of Roosevelt.

On February 20, 1906, the Township committee received a communication from the Board of Education relative to the bill in the legislature to incorporate the Carteret section as the Borough of Roosevelt. Incensed over the turn of events, the following resolution was adopted by the committee:

"Whereas, Carteret has had, at the expense of the Township as a whole, its just proportion of the improvements and is about to set itself off in a borough that will increase the tax rate of the portion left, which is unjust to the Taxpayers of the outlying district, who have had no improvements and have borne uncomplainingly their portion of the expense to improve said borough and other portions of our town,

"Therefore, be it resolved, that we, the township Committee of the Township of Woodbridge, the body representing the taxpayers of said Township take some formal action against the bill now pending in the senate for the protection of the taxpayers whom we represent."

Immediately after the resolution was adopted it was "resolved that the chair appoint a committee of two to act in conjunction with Mr. Cutter, the Township Attorney (Note: Ephriam Cutter, whose offices were in the Masonic Building where the editorial rooms of the Independent-Leader are now located) and go before the Senate Committee on Boroughs and Townships to protest against the passage of the bill incorporating the Borough of Roosevelt and to ask that some provision

be made whereby the proposed borough assumes its just share of the indebtedness of the Township and also to oppose the passage of said bill as unjust to the Township of Woodbridge". Committeeman Liddle and Committeeman McElroy were appointed on the committee.

But even while the agitation was growing keener each day, Committeeman J. A. Hermann, of the Carteret section, calmly saw to it that the necessary clothes were "purchased for the police officers at Carteret."

On April 11, 1906, the bill setting off Carteret as a separate and distinct municipality was approved by the legislature and on May 1, 1906, the people of Carteret voted on the matter in the Carteret lock-up (which had just been completed by Woodbridge Township) with the resulting vote as follows:

377 in favor of the referendum; 1 vote against and 3 votes rejected.

Woodbridge Township would like to know the identity of the lone man who voted to stay with it.

On May 29, 1906, "the chair reported that a notice was served on him on May 28, 1906, by the Attorney of Roosevelt of an application to the Court of Common Pleas on June 1st at 10:30 A. M., for the appointment of three commissioners to make a division of the assets and liabilities between the Borough and the Township."

Finally, on June 7, 1906, Officers John Donovan and Charles S. Walling, the Carteret policemen were notified that "their terms as policemen of this Township terminated on the 28th day of May, 1906."

A second petition from J. L. Dunn, asking the committee to appoint him police justice, or recorder, was received on June 28, 1906 and referred to the committee for further consideration. On September 6, 1906, the Township, minus Carteret, prepared its budget. With two less policemen on the force, the police appropriation was cut from \$4,000 to \$2,600. In fact all the appropriations were cut considerably, the amounts being as follows:

Township purposes,	\$3,000
Roads & Bridges	2,500
Support of Poor	1,700
Macademizing	4,000
Police	2,600
Assessors' Maps	<u>500</u>
Total Budget	\$14,300.

During the same month, Martin Jaeger was appointed special officer for the month of October at a compensation of \$50 per month. The appointment was evidently made for the vacation period.

The police department, from all appearances, was too small to take care of routine matters and special assignments also, for in the minutes of November 8, 1906, we read:

"On a motion duly seconded, Mr. Diebold, overseer of the poor, was empowered to employ a detective at an expense not to exceed \$50 to find out, if possible, the parents of the child found at Port Reading on October 30, 1906."

Again the police committee had difficulty in making the officers understand that they must punch the time clocks that had been installed in Woodbridge, Port Reading and Sewaren. A resolution was finally passed on November 8, to the effect that any officer failing to register in accordance with the rules would be suspended for

ten days for each failure without pay. Then , less than a month later, Officer Coffey was notified that he would be suspended from duty from December 7th to 16th inclusive because he had failed to "punch the clock". At the end of the suspension period Officer Coffey failed to report back to duty "due to a severe cold." On March 14, 1907, the minutes recorded that "Mr. Kuhlman be instructed to procure a key to the Port Reading fire house for Officer Coffey". And then on April 11, 1907, it was "moved and carried that the resignation of Michael Coffey as policeman and constable to take effect April 16, be accepted."

A few days later, on April 22, 1907, Hans Simonsen, of Sewaren, who had acted as special office during vacation periods, was named police officer in Mr. Coffey's place, his appointment to take place at once.

With policemen's salaries set at \$50 a month, the officers decided that their pay should be increased and in April 4, 1907, they presented a petition requesting a raise. In the following month "it was moved and carried that the salaries of the officers be increased to \$55 per month, increase to date as of May 1st, 1907."

At about that time, Mr. De Forest, of Sewaren, requested a liquor license for the "Sewaren House " and the permit was opposed by the Boyntons who vigorously protested, declaring a "saloon in Sewaren would be demoralizing." Today there are 70 taverns in the Township with Sewaren boasting of its share.

The Township continued to grow and as the population increased petitions were submitted asking for police protection for the various sections. In January of 1907 a petition was read requesting that "Peter Johnson be appointed

special officer for Keasbey and vicinity, he to be compensated out of the appropriation for police and also that a lock-up and polling place be set-up in this locality. On Motion duly seconded said petition was laid on the table for further consideration."

At the same meeting, John Omenhiser was given the position as janitor or warden at the lock-up for the ensuing year and the Justices of the Peace in the Township were notified that the committee "desires that they detain no prisoners in the lock-up over 24 hours without a hearing."

Again, at the end of the year, Mr. Johnson submitted an application for appointment to the police department for Keasbey and Fords sections and again the application was "received and filed." A few days later, a Mr. Peter Hamilton applied for the position and received the same treatment. On January 6, 1908, a Mr. James O'Reilly submitted an application and once again the Township committee followed the same routine. The applications then came thick and fast with Peter Peterson and Arthur Deter among the applicants.

And then on May 28, 1908, on a motion duly seconded, James A. Walsh, who was destined to rise from the ranks to the Chief of Police of the Woodbridge department, a position he held at the time of his death, was "appointed police officer at Keasbey and Fords at a compensation of \$50 a month, said appointment to take effect June 1st, next." Thus, James Walsh became the first policeman to cover a beat, not his home territory. Walsh, a Woodbridge-proper resident covered Keasbey and Fords for some time. With no automobiles for transportation for the police department



in those days, Walsh had to board the bus to Perth Amboy each night and change at Perth Amboy for the bus to Fords. After covering the section all night on foot, Walsh had to get back to Woodbridge the best way he could, most of it by foot. And those were the good old days!

## Chapter 5.

From 1909 to 1911 the police force and the Township Committee were to go through a period of reconstruction which finally wound up into a regularly organized police department authorized through an act of the legislature, increased salaries for policemen, appointment of a chief of police from the ranks and the adoption of permanent rules and regulations.

On January 19, 1909, the Township committee made an appointment that was later to cause them difficulty. In the minutes of that date we read:

"On motion duly seconded, John L. Dunn was appointed police inspector at a salary of \$20 per month, he to report to the committee at every regular meeting and to be furnished with a badge and to exercise oversight on the policemen of the Township under the direction of the committee."

Dunn, it will be recalled, was a justice of the peace, and old timers tell me that he always considered himself the first chief of Woodbridge township. They also tell me that when the department was reorganized under the statute, Mr. Dunn took some legal steps and halted the appointment of Patrick Murphy as first chief of police for almost a year.

Shortly after Dunn's appointment, Overseer of the Poor Rohrbach was notified to "send all tramps to Judge Dunn hereafter instead of giving them orders for a night's lodging in the lock-up and that Judge Dunn be notified to use his discretion in dealing with such cases."

Labor disputes arose in the Township in 1909 and on

February 28th of that year, the Inspector of Police was authorized to employ twelve deputies in addition to the regular policemen for two days on account of the strikes in the factories at the clay banks of the township.

Committeeman Cranston, who served on the police committee during this period, was evidently a thorough man and a stickler for detail, for he ordered the first police blotter and directed that the police use the blotter in all lock-up cases. Previously the Justices of the Peace kept the records and as far as can be determined the "records died with them."

It might be amusing to note that the first notation on the police blotter was by Patrick Murphy who wrote "Arrested Joe Holas for assault and committed to County jail for the grand jury." Joe Holas, or Hollis, as he is frequently booked, has been arrested numerous times since then on drunkenness charges and has spent a great deal of his life between the county workhouse and short visits to Woodbridge, according to the records in Chief Keating's files.

But Woodbridge was still very much a small town in those days and was faced with country-like problems. A quaint item is found inserted in the November 11, 1909 minutes which reads as follows:

"Moved and carried that the clerk write Officer McDonald and ask him to find out the owner of the goats which trespass on Mr. Caniacioli's property and notify the owner that if the goats are not kept off said property they will be shot."

Petitions began to pour in on the Township Committee demanding police protection at lower Fulton Street and Spa Spring. The answer, lack of finances, has a familiar ring even today. One reply, which could be used at the present time, reads:

"On a motion duly seconded the communication of Mr. Norman Grant bearing on police protection for Spa Spring was ordered received and the clerk was directed to advise him that there is no appropriation available at the present for such purpose but that the matter will be given consideration when recommendations are made for appropriations to be voted for at the next election."

The first step toward the organization of a regular police department came on August 19, 1910, when the Township committee passed the following resolution:

"Whereas: the cost of living and the expenses of the exacting demands of a presentable appearance of the patrolmen in the employ of the Township of Woodbridge cannot be kept up by the small salary now paid by said Township to its patrolmen, and

"Whereas: the dangers and jeopardy of the position of the patrolman require able and efficient men to act in that capacity and

"Whereas: ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ it is necessary in order to get good services to pay just and reasonable wages, and

"Whereas: the Legislature of the State of New Jersey has provided a law by which the efficiency and the length of service of a patrolman may be rewarded by a meritorious system of graduating wages and

"Whereas: Several of the Townships of the State of New Jersey have since the enactment of said law accepted the same and have taken advantage thereof, and

"Whereas: the duties of the patrolmen of the Township of Woodbridge are becoming more arduous and exacting:

Now, therefore, be it resolved and hereby ordered by the Township Committee of the Township of Woodbridge, that the amount

and rejection of the act entitled, "An act to regulate the pay of patrolmen on the police force in cities other than first and second class cities and in all towns and townships of this State" P. L. of 1909, Chapter 244, be submitted to the voters of said Township at the next general election be balloted on pursaunt to the above-mentioned act."

In the meantime, the "horseless carriage" was presenting its first problem to the Township and the following September, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles at Trenton was asked to send an inspector to Woodbridge to put an end to reckless drivers of automobiles through Amboy Avenue, if possible. At approximately the same time there is a record of an arrest made by Officer Murphy because the motorist traveled at the rate of 30 miles an hour!

The movement to organize the police department gained more momentum when on September 8, 1910, the ordinance entitled, "An ordinance to establish a police department in the Township of Woodbridge in the County of Middlesex" was adopted and the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

"Whereas, there has been presented to the Township Committee of the Township of Woodbridge in the County of Middlesex a petition signed by at least five per centum of the qualified electors of such Township, as evidenced by the total number of votes cast at the next preceding election of officials of such township, which said petition has been duly filed with the clerk of said Township for the adoption of an act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey entitled:

"An act to remove police department in the Township of this state from political control and regulate the tenure and terms

of offices of the officers and men employed in such departments" approved May 7, 1907,

"Now therefore, be it Resolved that the question of the adoption of said act shall be submitted to vote in the manner and form required by law, in said Township at the next ensuing election for Township officials, to be held hereafter, to wit the November election, 1910.

"And be it further resolved that there shall be printed on each ballot at said election, in such manner as is required by the statute in such case made and provided, the question of the adoption and acceptance or rejection of said law by the voters."

It will be noted that it was the first time that the word "tenure" is employed in the connection with the police department and that it was undoubtedly the first effort made to take the policemen out of political control once they were appointed to the force.

The voters approved the resolution on the ballot and on November 10, 1910, the police inspector was ordered to have all officers present at a "meeting to be held on Wednesday night at 8 P. M."

On that night, November 16, 1910, "on a motion duly seconded it was resolved that the following policemen be appointed under the ordinance of the Township and the two new acts adopted by the voters at the last General election, to wit: Patrick Cullinane, Patrick Murphy, Michael McDonald, Hans Simonsen and James Walsh."

Inspector's Dunn's name was conspicuous by its absence.

Old Times have informed us that Dunn fought to hold on to his position as chief of police. He passed could be found,



however, and on November 30, 1910, the minutes read:

"Attorney March reported regarding the police matters that the ordinance adopted in September, last, to establish a police department in the Township of Woodbridge and the two acts adopted by the voters at the last general election were void and of no effect, inasmuch as the legal voters of the Township had never voted to establish and maintain a police department, and on a motion duly made and carried the clerk was instructed to invite the policemen to be present at the regular meeting to be held December 1, to hear an explanation of the matter."

From then on there was plenty of strife before Mr. Dunn resigned as police inspector and the Township committee took it upon itself to push the matter, organize a regular police department and name Patrick W. Murphy as chief of police.

# Chapter 6.

By striking back at Inspector John Dunn, the Township committee hoped to be able to push through its move to establish a police department, a movement that undoubtedly had the support of the people.

On December 6, 1910, the chairman of the Township committee, Randolph Lee, relinquished the chair to Mr. Lahey and brought up the matter of "dispensing with the services of the police inspector and, on motion duly made and carried, the matter was referred to the Township attorney to report at the next meeting."

On December 8, 1910, Mr. Lee again relinquished the chair to Lahey and offered the following resolution moving its adoption:

"Resolved that the employment of John L. Dunn as police inspector be and the same is hereby terminated from and after the present month: Be it further resolved that the Township clerk notify the said John L. Dunn, of the contents of this resolution."

Mr. Kuhlman seconded the motion and the roll was called by the clerk. The vote was as follows: For the resolution- Lee and Kuhlman; against the resolution- Lahey, Cranston and Brown. The motion was therefore lost.

The Mr. Lee took an unprecedented step. The minutes continue: "Mr. Lee desired entering on the minutes that he, as chairman of the Township committee, declares the office of police inspector vacant after December 31, 1910 and instructs the treasurer to pay no money for such services after that date". Mr. Brown desires to record his objection to such action being taken."

On December 20, the resignation of John L. Dunn, as inspector of police, was received and on December 29, the resignation was accepted.

Not much is recorded in the Township minutes regarding the police department from that date until June 23, 1911 when John Omenhiser withdrew his application for a police job and Robert Egan was appointed for Keasbey and Fords and Philip Dunphy for Woodbridge proper. Robert Egan is day patrolman at Fords corner at the present time, while Dunphy, now deceased, became a desk sergeant.

The township committee at the same time passed the following resolution:

"On motion duly made and carried it was ordered that a recorder be appointed to act as such to hear lock-up cases and exercise an oversight over police on condition that the statute does not compel payment of over \$400 per year." And on June 27, 1911, Mark G. Ashley became recorder. He served in that capacity up until the time B. W. Vogel became judge.

On July 6, 1911, a letter was submitted by the taxpayers and citizens of Fords and Keasbey expressing regret at the transfer of Officer James Walsh from that portion of the Township. At the same time the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved: that in pursuance of the opinion of the counsel this day furnished in the police matter the police officers be paid in accordance with the schedule fixed by the act of the legislature heretofore adopted by the voters of the Township."

A few days later, on July 13, 1911, events took a turn that was to shape the destinies of the police department. In the records we find the following words:

"In view of the fact that it has been decided to regulate and organize the police of this Township into an organized police force, I believe that it would be wise to appoint one of the members of the present force as an inspector of police to serve under the direction of the police committee in such manner and under such regulations as this committee may adopt."

Patrick Murphy was then appointed as police inspector but a few weeks later the title was changed to Chief of Police. Thus Murphy became the first, officially recognized chief. It also established a precedent of picking a man from the ranks to head the department.

At the same time, Committeemen Dooley and Kuhlman were named as members of the police committee and were authorized to purchase a "suitable badge and helmet emblem for the Chief."

Action against the Justices of the Peace, who cluttered the lock-up with prisoners arrested by constables and approval of powers to Chief Murphy were noted on November 9, 1911 when it was ordered that no prisoners be permitted in the lock-up without the endorsement of the Chief of Police or the acting patrolman in charge of the lock-up and that the keeper of the lock-up be notified of this action."

It was also ordered "that the keeper of the lock-up be directed to procure new locks and keys for said lock-up, he to consult the Chief of Police regarding the number and disposition of the keys."

Meanwhile, the police officers were making their regular rounds of duty, as the Township Committee endeavored to straighten out legal talents.

In the first police blotter of record, we find that illegal liquor was not an unknown quantity. Officer Robert Egan, arrested one George Molnar, of Perth Amboy, "for illegal liquor selling" early in 1912.

Chief Murphy was busy arresting motorists for reckless driving while the first light check was made by Officer Murphy who reported one light out on Fulton Street, one on Albert Street and one on Rahway Avenue.

An amusing entry was made by Officer Cullinane who wrote: "This man John Peterson that was here last night about that cow. I got his cow for him on the payment of fifty cents."

The cow had evidently roamed away from pasture, had been picked up and the fifty cents was in payment of board.

They even had "crooks" in the "good old days". A record in the blotter, by Chief Murphy tells of a "Mrs. Sipos, of Keasbey, who reported that a man, about five feet seven inches tall, called at her home. He had a smooth face and dark hair. She gave him her husband's watch to have a photo put in the case. He said he was from Perth Amboy. He never came back with the watch."

Another note, that interested me particularly, read: "Mr. Wagner, reporter for the Evening News, reports two fur robes taken from his car on St. George Avenue. A reporter with a car and two fur robes!"

The first record of counterfeiters is found in a report made by Officer Bob Egan, as follows:

"Found moulds for making coins and some counterfeit coins in the home of Mary Jerkovitz at Fords. There were moulds for half dollars, quarters and nickels. Also found 53 counterfeit half dollars, 25 quarters and a nickels. Arrested Mary Jerkovitz and Mike Zupka. The government officers who were with me took them to

Newark."

The first record of a hit-and-run death was also made by Officer Egan who wrote: "Found the body of Andrew Horvath, 20, of Ellendale Terrace, between Hogan's Corner and Florida Grove Road."

And although, there were previous murders, the first recorded one was covered by Officer Reilly, who reported to his superiors:

"Matteo Ranaldo, of Port Reading, was shot to death by a shotgun near the camps, May 24, at 12:10 A. M., by some unknown person."

And so it went, murders, hit-and-run cases, counterfeiters, and robberies. So the world hasn't changed much after all.

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## Chapter 7.

And while the police officers were busy making arrests, the police recorder, Mark Ashley, was equally as busy, meting out punishment to offenders. On December 7, 1911, the recorder's report for November showed fines collected "amounting to \$154 and a disbursement of \$10; check for the balance, \$144 being turned over to the treasurer." The disbursements were for conveying prisoners to the county workhouse. In those days, the police officer making the arrest, had to escort the prisoner in question, to the workhouse. It meant walking the prisoner to the Fast Line, a long ride in the trolley, and then a long walk through the woods, after leaving the trolley, in order to reach the workhouse.

It might be interesting to note, in passing, that in the early part of 1912, the Township was divided into wards, for the first time.

On June 13, 1912, William Butters and Mr. Klein were appointed to the police force "to serve at the request of the Township Committee at \$2.00 a day." A few days later it was moved and carried that "William Butters and Emil Klein be appointed to serve as special policemen at the regular salary until further notice" and the Chief was authorized to appoint two other men if Butters and Klein refused to serve.

Then on June 20, 1912, Officer Michael McDonald submitted his resignation as a police officer of the Township which was received and accepted.

At the same time, the committee ordered that in the event of vacancies or additions to the police force such vacancies were to be filled by "confirming the appointment of special policemen appointed to serve in connection with the regular appointed police force." Early in July, on the eleventh day to be exact, "John T. Reilly was appointed policeman to act in the place of William Butters, who declined to act in the same capacity as Emil Klein."

After the initial meeting on the first day of January, John Omenhiser, the keeper of the lock-up was ordered to vacate the lock-up building before February 1, 1913 and turn over the keys of the jail at once to Michael Miller.

Chief Murphy "got a break" soon after when his salary was increased to "13160 a month to be raised at the rate of \$60 per year until the maximum of \$125 per month be reached."

And then--progress began in earnest-- the police officers were provided with whistles and the clerk was instructed to write to Hugh McCullum and Robert Fullerton to get bids on a motorcycle.

Fullerton's bids were as follows: "5 H. P. Harley & Davidson single cylinder, \$235; 8 H. P. Harley & Davidson, twin cylinder, \$285." McCullum's bid was "7 H. P. Indian, \$250". It was noted that the speedometer, prestolite lamp, headlight, horn, etc., were to be purchased separately. The bids were carried over for further consideration.

Speeding of autoists became a real problem, so it seems, for the clerk was instructed to have signs placed at Fords Corner, New Brunswick Avenue at the City Line and Keasbey at Perth Amboy City Line to warn autoists against speeding.

On July 1, 1913, the police committee became busy and two more men were appointed to the police department--John P. Cholar,

, of Keasbey, now on pension, and Samuel ("Whistling Sam") Lloyd, of Sewaren. The clerk was directed to purchase the Indian motorcycle from Mr. McCullum and Phil Dunphy became the first motorcycle cop. The motorcycle was fully equipped for those days and lettered (in police blue) "Woodbridge Police". In fact the motorcycle, according to Chief George E. Keating, was still a part of the police equipment when he joined the force shortly after the war.

At approximately the same time, William Krause (now deceased) who later became janitor of the Port Reading school, became a member of the police force, as far as I could determine there is no record in the minutes of his appointment. This may have been due to a slip-up in the office of the late Andrew Keyes, Township Clerk at that time. The first record I found of Krause's being a member of the police force, was in the payroll sheets.

On July 5, 1914, the five commissioners of Fords requested a meeting with the Township committee in regard to "placing a cage in the firehouse at Fords for the temporary confinement of prisoners." Mr. Mundy was named as a committee of one, but, I learned, that no cage was erected in Fords, although it was requested several times by the residents of that district.

During this period, the constitutionality of the act of the legislature, regulating the pay of patrolmen in the police force in other than first and second class cities, and in all Towns and Townships of the state, was being questioned. The act had been submitted to the voters of the Township of Woodbridge at the general election held in November 1910 and the act was accepted by the voters of the Township of Woodbridge by a large majority.

In the case of Sawyer vs Town of Kearny, it was decided by the Supreme Court that the act was unconstitutional because it embraced a double basis of classification of municipalities.

Early in May, the Chairman of the Township committee requested the Township attorney to give his opinion in relation to the salary that the committee has a right to pay the policemen. His opinion was that the committee had no right to pay more than \$2.00 a day. ~~What~~ What a blow to the policemen! However, no action was taken by the committee on the attorney's opinion and it was moved that the police be paid the April salary-the same as usual.

A week later, at a special meeting, Chairman Waring stated that "Whereas, the Township attorney at a previous meeting gave an opinion in relation to the pay of the policemen, he requested that the same be placed on the minutes." When the roll was called Mundy and Cooper voted in the affirmative while Gerity, Gill, Deter and De Haven cast their vote in the negative. The motion was declared lost. It was then moved that the police question be laid over until a further meeting. Mundy cast the only negative vote and the motion was declared carried.



## Chapter 8.

The rumpus regarding police officers' salaries continued and in May of 1914, an ordinance to fix the annual-salaries and compensation to be paid the police of the Township of Woodbridge was adopted over the negative votes of Committeemen Cooper and Mundy. Although the ordinance gave increase to the patrolmen they were not in accordance with the act voted upon by the Township citizens, which act was later declared unconstitutional.

For the purpose of the record, it might be well to reprint parts of the ordinance, as adopted on May 25, 1914. The ordinance, in part, reads as follows:

"..... And Whereas, the legal voters of the Township of Woodbridge have heretofore both granted and raised money for the establishment and maintenance of a police department, and

"Whereas, the Township Committee did thereupon by ordinance establish such a police department and provide for the regulation and control and management of a police force, and

"Whereas, said Township committee for that purpose did by resolution appoint from time to time eleven police officers, one of whom is the Chief of Police, being members and officers of such police force, the same being deemed by said committee necessary for that purpose, and

"Whereas, said department has been in effect since the year 1910 under said ordinance, and

"Whereas, said police officers have heretofore been paid according to the terms and under the direction of an act of the legislature entitled, "An act to regulate the pay of patrolmen of the police force in cities other than the first and second class cities and in all Towns and Townships of this state, approved April 21, 1909 and

"Whereas the said act has been declared unconstitutional and

"Whereas, it is desired to fix said salaries of the said members of the Police department,

"Now, therefore, be it ordained:

"That the annual salary of compensation to be paid to the Chief of Police heretofore and hereafter to be appointed by the Township Committee shall be \$1,260, payable at the rate of \$105 per month."

Continuing the ordinance reads:

"That the annual salary or compensation to be paid to patrolmen shall be as follows:

"To Patrick Cullinane, Hans Simonsen, and James Walsh, each the sum of \$960 per year, payable at the rate of \$80 per month.

"To Philip Dunphy and Robert Egan, each, \$900 a year, payable at the rate of \$75 per month, to the first day of July, 1914, and at and after that date the sum of \$960 a year to be paid at the rate of \$80 per month.

"To William Krause, Emil Klein, John T. Reilly, each the sum of \$840 per-year to be paid in monthly installments of \$70 per month until the first day of July, 1914, and at and after that date their salary is to be increased annually at the rate of sixty dollars per year until it reaches the sum of \$960 per year, payable at the rate of \$80 per month.

"Samuel Lloyd and John Cholar, \$800 a year, until July 1, 1914 and thence increased in like manner. All salaries shall be paid

semi-monthly.

"That the salary or compensation of all patrolmen hereafter to be appointed shall be the sum of \$780 for the first year, to be payable in monthly installments of \$65 per month, with an annual increase of pay after the first year, of \$60, until they shall receive the sum of \$960."

But many resolutions, ordinances and referendums were passed and adopted since 1914, before the present day schedules were adopted. The question of police salaries caused many a rift in the ranks of the various Township committees.

With the passage of the above ordinance it was moved and carried that "the police officers will purchase all their own new uniforms in the future." A short time later, the motion was amended, to take care of the motorcycle officer. To this day, patrolmen and superior officers purchase their own uniforms, with the exception of the motorcycle patrol officers, who receive half of the cost of their uniforms from the Township. This is due to the fact that the motorcycle patrolman's uniform is more costly because of additional equipment such as leather puttees and Sam Brown belts and the fact that the uniform wears out more quickly on account of the jouncing of the motorcycle.

When the summer of 1914 arrived the policemen were granted permission to wear police caps in the place of helmets during the summer months. The helmets were never donned again. And thus passed the "Bobby" type helmet from the Township. Retired policemen tell me that the helmets were exceedingly heavy.

On October 3, 1914, a resolution was passed that was to cause a 10-year argument. On that date the committee voted that a question be placed on the ballot authorizing the committee to raise a \$30,000 bond issue to pay for the cost of the erection of a suitable building to be used as a town hall to include a police headquarters and the purchase of sufficient lands thereof." I thoroughly searched the records in Township Clerk B. J. Dunigan's office for the election returns, but it evidently was not placed on the ballot that year.

It was not until the 11th day of April 1916, that the question of the issuance of bonds of said Township in the amount of \$35,000 for the erection of a municipal building, came before the voters. At that time 378 voted for the issuance of the bonds and 460 voted against. Only two ballots were rejected. It will be recalled that the foundation for a new municipal building was started next to the firehouse in School Street, that after the foundation was erected, the construction was stopped and the projected tied up in litigation and that the town hall was finally built on the present site, Main Street and Rahway Avenue in the 1920's.

It will also be recalled that only a few years ago, the foundation, grown unsightly with weeds and as a depository for tin cans and refuse, was blown to bits to make way for the park system.

But more of that to come later. To get back to the police department that was a particularly busy at that time with murders and railroad crossing deaths.

On November 2, 1913, Patrick Fee of Keasbey, was struck and killed by a trolley car at Keasbey. On March 31, Paul Bori, of Metuchen Avenue, was found murdered, with two bullets in him, in the Valentine clay banks near Metuchen Avenue. On June 15, 1914, Peter Skow, of Port Reading, was struck and killed by a train at the Central Railroad crossing at Blair's Road, Port Reading. Skow's horse was also killed at the time. Seventy-one year old Lizzie Laneson, of Fulton

Street, was struck and killed by a Pennsylvania Railroad train at Albert Street Crossing, on September 14, 1914.

And so it went, the Township committee members, arguing among themselves, mostly on political lines and the police department, despite its ups and downs, going calmly on its way--eleven pioneers, striving to bring law and order to a Township that had to contend with a railroad camp and an ever-growing foreign population which did not understand our ways and manner of doing things.

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## Chapter 9

In September of 1915, the members of the Woodbridge Township Police department took steps to join the Patrolman's Benevolent Association of the State of New Jersey. In order to have a sufficient number of members to secure a charter, Carteret police joined with Woodbridge to make a local. Later, when the Carteret department grew in number the officers of that municipality formed their own local. On September 15, the Township committee "moved and carried that Officers Walsh and Dunphy be granted a leave of absence, September 22 and 23, to attend the police convention." at that session of the P. B. A., Walsh and Dunphy applied for a charter, which was granted.

During the first part of 1916, the department was somewhat neglected by the Township committee due to the fact that the members of the latter body had a fight on their hands to keep Fords, Keasbey and Hopelawn from breaking away from the Township. In the minutes of February 16, 1916, we read:

"It was moved and carried that petitions be circulated in Fords, Keasbey and Hopelawn in opposition to the proposed annexation to the City of Perth Amboy."

On March 15, 1916, Samuel Lloyd submitted his resignation as a member of the department. His place was filled on that date by Harvey E. Romond, now retired, who later became a desk sergeant.

Traffic conditions became a veritable "headache" to the police department and the Township Committee and on April 26, 1916, the committee directed the Chief of Police to purchase traffic and danger signs and place them at dangerous intersections and near school areas.

On the same date, the police committee was directed to confer with the telephone company in reference to installing a telephone call system. Phones were later placed in various sections of the Township and connected with police headquarters. The following week, the Township clerk was instructed to notify Recorder Mark Ashley to "make trips to Fords and Port Reading on Sundays to hold court for violations of law."

The new town hall proposition, which was to include a police station, came up again and on May 17, 1916, it was resolved that "W. H. Boylan, of New Brunswick, be and he is hereby engaged as an architect to prepare plans and specifications and supervise the entire construction for a new municipal building, such plans and specifications to be drawn to the approval and satisfaction of the committee. For his entire work in preparation of plans and specifications and complete supervision of construction he shall be paid and accept in full 5 per centum of the cost of construction." Committeemen Gerity, Egan, Gill and De Haven voted in favor of the proposition. Committeeman Hoy voted no while Committeeman Deter did not vote.

On May 23, the committee directed that a notice be inserted in the Woodbridge Leader giving notice that sealed propositions would be received and opened at the meeting to be held Wednesday evening, June 7, 1916, at eight o'clock for a suitable site for the proposed town hall. At that meeting bids were received as follows:



Arthur E. Berry- Perth Amboy Avenue, 120 feet ~~rear~~ front by 225 feet in depth, rear on Smith Street, for \$2,700.

Woodbridge Industrial and Development Company, plot 165 feet on Pearl Street and about 175 feet on School Street for \$10,400. This bid was accepted and a foundation built on the property, after which the work was halted and never completed. Committeemen Gerity, Egan, DeHaven and Coll voted for the proposition, while Committeemen Gill, Peter and Hoy did not vote.

Chief of Police Murphy was given permission to attend his first chiefs' convention on June 7 and was awarded \$25 for expenses.

On July 19, 1916, we find the first step taken to denate a superior officer in addition to the chief of police when an ordinance was introduced (and passed on August 22) "providing for the appointment of a Detective Sergeant of Police, prescribing his duties and fixing his salary and compensation."

Then, on August 8, James Walsh, "one of the police officers of the department, who has served continuously for at least five years" was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant of Police.

Evidently guessing that the Township committee was about to appoint several men to the force, several Township residents sent in applications to the committee for the jobs, all of which were received and filed.

Finally, on September 20, 1916, the long awaited appointments were made, --introduced with the following resolutions:

"That owing to the number of depredations committed and the number of accidents by speeding auto traffic in the Township the following be and are hereby appointed police officers of the Township subject to the police rules and regulations, same to take effect as of October 1, 1916: --"

"Paul Farkas, Fred Yulma Larsen, Martin Lybeck and P. M. Moscarelli."

Paul Farkas was the father of the present motorcycle officer, Joseph Farkas. Fred Larsen rose to the rank of Rounds Sergeant before he retired to devote himself to his hobby--fishing--down in South Jersey. Lybeck died during the influenza epidemic while Moscarelli later resigned.

On January 5, 1917, the Woodbridge police department was faced with a murder case which was to earn the nick name of the "Five-Cent murder". James J. Johnson shot and killed Harry Richerson at Port Reading. It appeared that Richerson owed Johnson five cents. A quarrel started over the few pennies and the shooting followed. The witnesses were Luke Heath, John Hall, Arthur Moon and Joseph Brown, all of whom were employed by the P & R at Port Reading.

## Chapter Ten

On January 7, 1917, a movement (largely political

according to old timers) was started to demote Detective Sergeant James Walsh to the rank of patrolman. On that date it was moved and carried "that a special meeting be called on January 24, at eight o'clock in the evening to consider the matter of the police department and any other business that may be brought out and that the police committee at that time recommend a method of reorganizing the department to conform to the prospective revenues at that they arrange for the presence at that meeting of any police officers who are likely to be affected thereby."

When the night of the meeting arrived the committee had to adjourn to the High School due to the "lack of room in the present town hall." It appeared as if the whole town had turned out. The chairman of the Township committee called upon the chairman of the police committee, Committeeman Baldwin, to present his suggestions in reference to reorganizing the police department. Baldwin handed Township Clerk Andy Keyes the following recommendations to read:

"That the position of Detective Sergeant be abolished.

"That the force be reduced by dropping at least three members.

"That no salary increase be permitted during the year.

"That the salary of the chief be fixed at \$1,000 a year and that no officer who has served less than 10 years be paid more than \$1,050."

Letters objecting to the plan of the police committee were read from the following:

Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, Joseph Stricker, Prosecutor of the Pleas; Dieler March Co., and two petitions from the residents of Fords and Keasbey. The following also appeared personally "Against the proposed changes and requested that no changes be made and the police force be left intact:

Victor Man, of the Steel Equipment; A. P. McKowan, Dr. Albee, Joseph Ryan, of the Mutton Hollow Fire Brick Company; Howard Valentine, A. Duff, of the Liquor Dealers' Association; G. L. Borton, R. E. Watson, of the Patrolman's Benevolent Association and John F. Ryan.

The mayor then requested all those in the room who "wished the police force be left as at present to stand up" and it is noted in the minutes that practically every person in the room stood up. So the department was continued as in the previous year for the time being.

Then, on March 21, 1917 squabbling in political ranks were hidden by the shadows of war. On that date, "on account of possible unsettled conditions in the near future" it was proposed to "organize a body of special police for the purpose of home defense." The following names were submitted and unanimously named special policemen without pay:

H. L. Paschall, J. M. Dockstater, William Paul, Ray, J. L. E. E. E., J. H. E. E., H. E. E. E., S. B. E. E., G. L. E. E., H. E. E. E., F. R. E. E., W. H. E. E., H. H.



Voorhees, Colby Dill, R. A. Hinner, W. K. Franklin, G. Brewster, O. S. Dunigan, Ivins Brown, E. H. Boynton, A. Keyes and Sherman Demarest.

A committee, consisting of E. H. Boynton, Colby Dill and Andrew Keyes was appointed to consider the advisability of organizing a Home Defense League. The League was formed with the following (many of whom are still residing in the Township) enrolled as member of the Military company (also special police officers) under the command of Captain Frank I. Perry: (Editor's Note: These names were taken from the Township records. There may have been others who were not recorded.)

A. T. Ames, Oliver Ames, C. S. Barbata, W. G. S. Beal, C. D. Boynton, E. H. Boynton, G. L. Boynton, Percy Brown, Harry Baker, J. M. Campbell, J. Catano, A. Christensen, W. Garfield, H. Cutter, James Concannon, G. Damm, C. Dill, Francis Drake, M. Dunham, R. R. Eskeson, S. C. Farrell, R. S. Freeman, George From, C. G. Fritz, J. Fuller, A. F. Flanagan, C. S. Farrell, A. F. Gibernat, M. Greasheimer, F. Guyck, J. Handie, J. R. Hammett, Mads Jensen, C. Johnson, William Olsen, Joseph Resh, L. Matthews, C. S. Wagner, Steve Rush, C. Kirchner, C. Kuhlman, B. S. Lacy, A. LaFon, A. R. Lee, C. Lombardi, W. H. Lorch, John H. Love, J. F. Lee, J. Lewis, A. Lombardi.

M. L. McCarter, C. C. McCann, J. H. T. Martin, A. R. Martin, L. E. McElroy, A. McDonald, F. Moscarelli, J. J. Needer, J. Powers, P. Peterson, S. Byron, Potter, Don Potter, Runyon Potter, W. H. Prall, A. Fitz Randolph, J. Rauchman, George Robinson, K. Romano, Alex Sabo, L. C. Schack, C. Schaben, N. W. Sheldon, F. W. Stillman, R. H. Stryker, Harry Muddock, Nels Kristup, F. Mindock, P. Liddle, S. Sadlon, J. Schmidt, R. Tomasso, M. Tomasso, Russel Valentine, H. Vagelos, William H. Voorhees, R. T. Wales, Thomas Wand, C. P. Wate, W. J. Wolney, H. K. Wtaker, E. Zambo, R. Freeman, Joe Kochick, Mike Kochick, William Gloff, R. L. Predmore, Jack Jensen, Arthur Overgaard, Sam Olsen, C. Dunham, Nels Larsen, Ossian Hanstrom, John Dixon, Arthur Lind, Andrew Suanick, John Estokey, Carl Nelson, John Nadger, Charles Pfeiffer, George Fullerton, Silby Lance, Harry Mundy, Cy Marino, G. Green, Joseph Jogan, A. Rosen, A. H. Stevenson, Steve Kotposkey.

Sewaren Unit: F. L. Ballard, F. W. Bahlenn, E. B. Ford, G. A. Anderson, William Frazier Martin, W. H. Demarest, Thomas Zettlemoyer, Hans Beckman, Morrison Christie, E. W. Christie, L. J. Adams, F. H. Turner, W. H. Higgins, D. V. Rush, Dr/ A. Ellinger.

Colonia Unit: Arthur B. Hull, Dr. L. Hedges, Frank A. Pattison, Dr. Fred Albee, Charles L. Ayers, Harry McFarlane, Charles McFarlane and Edward K. Cone.

Iselin Unit: F. W. Hoffer, Edward Reinhardt, Willard Imscher, Edward Cooper, F. Cooper, Jr., John Boylan, Martin Hof, Charles Bohnhardt.

The Home Defense League was provided with nightsticks, badges, and guns and later on with uniforms. Several large appropriation for the various outfits were made by the Township committee.

Then in 1917, the Township Committee again turned its

attention back to the police department and for the second time attempted to abolish the position of detective sergeant. James Walsh was undoubtedly on the "wrong side of the fence politically." In introducing the ordinance the following statement was made by the police committee:

"The police committee finds that during the summer months it is advisable to detail some members of the police force as traffic officers. The court has determined that the voters appropriated only \$6,000 for the police department, which is now costing over \$12,000 to maintain. There are no available funds to increase the number of officers, but the police committee is of the opinion that the efficiency of the force would be improved by abolishing the office of Detective Sergeant, making the present incumbent more directly subject to the orders of the chief of police and such action will increase the number of men available for the general service. The committee therefore recommends that the office of Detective Sergeant be abolished and presents an ordinance for that purpose."

Committeemen Deter, Hoy, Chase and Baldwin voted in favor of the ordinance while Committeemen Egan and DeHaven voted in the negative. But Detective Sergeant James Walsh received another reprieve when the ordinance came up for final adoption. Not all the members of the committee were present. When the votes were counted, Chase and Baldwin voted in the affirmative while De Haven, Gill and Egan voted in the negative, thus defeating the measure. Hoy arrived late--but whether or not he did so purposely only he can say.

But consistency did not seem to be a part of the committee's make-up. They said they wanted to abolish the position of detective sergeant because they did not have enough traffic officers and that it would increase the efficiency of the force, and in almost the same breath, on October 17, 1917, an ordinance to create the position of Lieutenant of Police was introduced and passed on second and final readings on October 25. On the same date the following resolution was introduced promoting Patrick Cullinane to the new position:

"Resolved that upon the publication of the ordinance creating the office of police lieutenant, the chairman of the police committee be authorized to appoint Patrick Cullinane, police lieutenant, thereunder, with headquarters at Fords from November 1, 1917. "

All went well again until the early part of January 1918, when the Township committee finally succeeded in abolishing the position of Detective Sergeant. Committeemen Deter, Chase, Baldwin, Ames, Hoy and Breckenridge voted in favor of the measure, while Committeeman Egan cast the lone negative vote.

The year 1918 appeared to be taken up with war work and emergency appropriations caused by increased prices, but on November 25, 1918 the resignation of William Krause, as a member of the police force was received and on December 23, of the same year, P. M. Moscarolli, also resigned.

When January 1, 1919 rolled around, Deter, Baldwin and Hoy were made members of the police committee. They searched for a young man to join the department and finally selected a man who had just been mustered out of the army and who had made a name for himself in the intelligence department. So on January 19, 1919, that

man was made a member of the Woodbridge Township Police Department. His name was George E. Keating-who rose from the ranks, serving in every office of the department, until he reached the top of the ladder. Today he is Woodbridge Township's Chief of Police.

A month after Keating's appointment, Joseph Einhorn, now night patrolman on Main Street, and John Olbrick were named to the force, the appointments to take effect March 1. On June 16, 1919, Edward Simonsen, (deceased) son of Hans Simonsen and brother of the present Desk Sergeant Andrew Simonsen and Motorcycle Officer Rudolph Simonsen, received an appointment from the Township Committee. Thus, in quick succession, Woodbridge's finest was increased by four men.

## Chapter 11.

On July 28, 1919, the following is noted in the minutes of the committee:

"Resolved : That the application of W. H. Treen as patrolman be accepted and Mr. Olbrick be dismissed."

I understand that this is somewhat of a mistatement of fact as John Olbrick was not dismissed from duty but resigned to take a position with Anness and Potter. Mr. Treen resigned a very short time later, and although no mention is made of it in the Township minutes, his record stopped in a time sheet kept by Chief Murphy on September 15, 1919. On August 25, 1919, John Fox was named patrolman but he too, resigned--on June 21, 1921.

On September 22, 1919, A. H. Ludwigsen was appointed to the department, but he only stayed a few months, resigning on June 21, 1920.

A puzzle appears in the minutes of September 29, 1919 when it was "moved and carried that Mr. John Murphy be appointed policeman. There is no record, as far as I could determine, of any John Murphy serving on the force or drawing pay from the Township. And there is no record of the motion ever having been rescinded. As far as the records are concerned, John Murphy, whoever he is, is still a policeman in the Township.

On October 13, 1919, Henry Miller and Joseph Makfinsky were designated patrolmen of the Township by the committee. Miller resigned the following year, while Makfinsky died, after a long illness, recently.

The next policeman named was John K. Roch on November 11, 1919, but he too resigned on June 30, 1920. There were many more lucrative positions open in those days and the men left the department to accept them. Today, a post on the police department is considered a very good one judging from the scores of petitions on file with the chief of police.

In March of 1920, the first patrol wagon was purchased. The clerk was authorized to advertise for bids in the Woodbridge Leader and Woodbridge Independent and two bids were received. The Union Garage bid \$2,595 for an Oldsmobile Economy truck. The bid of McAllister and Carter was returned unopened--why, I do not know. A short time later the patrol was purchased from the Union Garage.

The year 1920 was a banner year for the cops--for there were 26 officers on the force, and through their efforts, the police pension fund referendum was passed.

Appointments came thick and fast in that period. On June 28, 1920, Thomas Soons, no patrol driver, was appointed. On July 8, August Lattin, no patrol, was also named. On December 27, when



Mr. Miller resigned, Wilhelm Brown, now Desk Sergeant was appointed. Early the following year, February 1, 1921, Joseph Lewis and George Leonard were placed on the roll call.

Leonard is still a member of the force. Joseph Lewis was fatally injured on September 18, 1932, while on duty. He had been assigned to church traffic(it was a Sunday morning) in Avenel shortly after eight o'clock. He was "working" the light at the intersection of Avenel Street and the superhighway, when a group of motorcyclists went through the red light barely missing some pedestrians. Lewis gave chase on his motorcycle. When he neared Kath's garage, his motorcycle, in some manner, skidded and crashed into a parked truck on the side of the road. Lewis died at the hospital a few hours later without regaining consciousness.

A disagreement among the committeemen as to the next police appointment occurred in the early part of 1922. Finally, on March 13, four names were submitted by the police committee and the Township council was asked to ballot on them until one was selected. The four concerned were: Arthur Hunt, Allan McDonnell, John Herman and Carl Sundquist. On the third ballot, Sundquist (who was recently named Desk Sergeant) was selected.

In the same month, Leon McElroy suggested "that the two oldest policemen in the point of service be promoted from the ranks to the grade of Lieutenant, the lieutenants to be stationed in the police station on 8 hour shifts, to perform the duties now incumbent on those on duty in the Station house." Since Murphy was chief and Cullinane already a lieutenant, the next two oldest men in point of service were James Walsh and Hans Simonsen, who would have been automatically slated for the jobs, but the motion was lost by one vote.

On April 19, 1922 it was moved and carried that "the Township committee pay \$10 per month for storage of the police patrol". Quite a costly garage bill!

The following October, the clerk notified the county clerk to place the following proposition on the ballot for the ensuing election:

"Shall the salaries of the members of the police force of the Township be increased \$300?"

The referendum was passed in November.

In March of the next year five ordinances were passed by the Township committee as follows:

"1. To create positions in the police force above the rank of patrolmen. (The positions created were: Traffic officers, desk sergeants, rounds sergeant, detective sergeant, captain of police and chief.)

"2. To increase the salary of Chief of Police.

"3. To increase the salaries to be paid to patrolmen (In accordance with the referendum).

"4. To abolish the position of Lieutenant of Police (The ordinance automatically demoted Cullinane.)

"5. To regulate sick leave in the police department."

On April 1, 1923 the following were designated superior

officers and their salaries were set forth as follows:

Patrick Murphy, chief of police, \$2,400.  
Patrick Cullinane, Desk Sergeant, \$2,100.  
Phillip Dunphy, desk sergeant, \$2,100.  
Harvey Romond, desk sergeant, \$2,100.  
James Walsh, detective sergeant, \$2,150  
Carl Sundquist, traffic officer, \$1,850.

At approximately the same time the committee ordered a complete change in the style of police uniforms--each outfit costing in the neighborhood of \$150. The committee finally "chipped in" and gave each policeman \$25 toward a new outfit.

Committeeman Larson, a member of the police committee submitted the following resolution on April 30, 1923:

"We, the undersigned, being members of the police committee of Woodbridge Township, having made a careful study of the averages of the different applicants for the position of patrolmen in the Woodbridge Township police force, and having deliberated in the particular fitness of each man, respectfully submit for appointment the following names for the grade of patrolman to take effect immediately:

"George Balint, John R. Egan, Edward Olbrick, Benjamin Parsons."

The resolution was carried by the slim margin of one vote, McElroy, Hoy, Larson and Salter voting in the affirmative while Luffbarry, Gill and Neuberg cast their votes in the negative.

Egan and Parsons are captains today while Balint is detective sergeant. Edward Olbrick died sometime later.



## Chapter 12.

Tempus fugit! And with the flight of time came up-to-the-minute improvements for the police department. Woodbridge's fines wasn't going to be caught napping. On June 11, 1923, the Township committee purchased, of all things, three bullet-proof vests. George S. Luffbarry, who was on the police committee at that time, relates how Harvey Romond put on one of the vests and allowed Luffbarry to shoot at him point blank.

"And as far as we were concerned", said Luffbarry, "we didn't know whether the things would work. We just took the salesman's word for it."

A short time after the experiment, the minutes record two events which left their mark on the police department--Emil Klein died and the people of Iselin demanded a traffic officer for their section. A few days later a Township meeting was held and we read:

"The police committee then recommended the appointment of a patrolman to fill a vacancy on the force due to the death of one of the patrolmen."

The committee went into executive session for twenty minutes and on its return there was a motion to accept or reject the recommendation of the police committee appointing James Anzavino to the department. McElroy passed, Luffbarry, Larson, Salter and Neuberg voted in the affirmative and Gill and Hoy cast their votes in the negative.

Anzavino remained on the force but a few months, resigning to take another position.

On November 19, 1923, Andrew Simonsen, now a desk sergeant, was appointed to the force without any opposition. He is the son, of Hans Simonsen, who was still a member of the department at the time of "Andy's" Appointment.

Nothing further of importance is noted until June 9, 1923, when the late Joseph Lewis was elevated to the rank of traffic officer.

A week later, on June 26, 1924, the Township committee met in the new Memorial Municipal Building (the present town hall) and the police department took possession of its new headquarters in the basement of the building.

In the following month, on July 7, 1924, three men were nominated for the position of policemen--Rudolph Simonsen, brother of Andrew Simonsen, W. A. Long and W. Gloff. Simonsen and Gloff won out but Long received only two votes. A motion that "F. Greishelmer be appointed at such time that his services are required" was defeated by one vote.

Remember the old Cadillac police patrol and ambulance? Of course you do, if you can remember back eight or nine years. Remember how it used to waddle from side to side when Tom Somers used to pilot it up Main Street? Well the contrivance was purchased back in March of 1925 from the Union Garage, Perth Amboy. And believe it or not, that old relic, when delivered to the town hall, cost \$3,500.

The addition of a patrolman was made to the force in late 1924 when the late Captain R. Romond of the present motorcycle cop,

Meyer Larson, received the O. K. of the Township committee. The following month, John Egan, was promoted to the traffic division.

The following year, 1926, the Democrats took control of the Township. B. W. Vogel was made police recorder and Robert H. Sattler became the police commissioner. Contrary to expectation the new office holders did not make any immediate changes in the department.

When the warm weather came around, the committee decided to give some comfort to the officers and purchased big umbrellas to go over the old-fashioned "stop-and-go" signs that were worked by hand. It was not so many years ago that the late James Walsh operated the one at the corner of Main Street and Amboy Avenue.

On May 10, 1926, Henry Dunham, Jr., was appointed as a patrolman, but he resigned a few months later, his position going to Joseph Grady, on August 15, 1926. Dunham was reappointed to the force a few years later. Grady is now a motorcycle officer.

In September of the same year, the members of the police department presented a petition "signed by the requisite number of voters" asking for an increase in salaries. An ordinance was introduced and passed and the schedule of salaries was approved as follows:

First year patrolman	---\$2,100
Second year patrolman	--- 2,300
Third year patrolman and thereafter	--- 2,500

Toward the end of the year, Stephen Horvath, a justice of the peace, complained to the committee that the police department refused to accept his prisoners. The police committee informed Horvath that the police department is not responsible for prisoners arrested by justices of the peace and that such prisoners should be taken by the justices to the county jail.

When February of 1927 rolled around, Joseph Farkas, son of Paul Farkas, one-time police officer, was named as rookie patrolman. Farkas is now a motorcycle officer.

The first resignation to retire on pension was recorded on May 23, 1927, when Hans Simonsen resigned and applied for pension which was granted. The following month, William Romond, was named a member of the department.

Then on November 28, 1927, one of the two famous "Paddies" Patrick Cullinane, the first policeman in Woodbridge Township retired on pension. His nephew, Allen McDonnell, present police clerk, was then appointed to take effect December 1, 1927 and at the same time, George E. Keating moved up the first rung of the ladder when he was made Desk Sergeant to take the place of Patrick Cullinane, retired."

## Chapter 13

From 1927 to 1930, many additions and changes were made to and in the police department. On December 12, 1927, Andrew Simonsen was promoted to the rank of traffic officer, getting the job of driving the patrol and ambulance. The following month, on January 23, 1928, Joseph M. Dalton, of Fords, was appointed to the force to take effect on February 1.

In the early part of February, Sergeant Philip Dunphy died and on the first of the following month, John Egan was named desk sergeant, in Dunphy's place. At the same time, Daniel Gibson, who was appointed to the force in February, 1924, was promoted to the rank of traffic officer and Closindow Zuccaro was named as new policeman to take Gibson's place as patrolman. Zuccaro is now a patrol driver.

On April 1, additional promotions were made. Benjamin Parsons was elevated to the rank of traffic sergeant, an office which he filled capably and James Walsh became Captain of Police, a post he filled until the death of Chief of Police Patrick W. Murphy, when he became head of the department.

In 1928, a resolution was received from Woodbridge Post, No. 87, the American Legion, urging the appointment of Frank Miller and George S. Finn, as policemen. In January of the following year, Edward Olbrick died.

From then on, routine matters occupied the committee and the police department, until December 30, when seven men were named to the department at one time. The resolution reads:

"Whereas, the preservation of life and property in the Township of Woodbridge, by reason of increased dangers due to traffic conditions require the appointment of additional patrolmen, and,

"Whereas, the State legislature adopted in the year 1929, a statute granting all police officers one day in each week as a free-day; and

"Whereas, the proper patrolling of the various areas in the Township requires additional patrolmen, and

"Whereas, the present police force is totally inadequate to take care of the increased demands, therefore

"Be it resolved that George Misak, Thomas Bishop, John Govelitz, Michael De Joy, Albert Levi, Fred Leidner and Nels Lauitzen be appointed to the police force as patrolmen of the third class, said appointments to be effective January 1, 1930."

Misak, Govelitz, Levi, Bishop, Leidner and Lauitzen are now patrolmen of the first class, while Michael De Joy is dead, succumbing suddenly to a heart attack.

A month after the appointment of the seven men on February 1, 1930 (after considerable wrangling in caucuses) five additional patrolmen were appointed as follows:

-Henry Dunham, Jr., (who served as police officer once before) Anthony Peterson, Frank Miller, John Manton and Karney J. Romano.

Dunham, Peterson and Manton are now patrolmen of the first class. Miller received his stripes recently and is now the Rounds Sergeant and Romano proved to be the "black sheep" of the department and was finally relieved from duty, on charges of "conduct unbecoming a gentleman and officer", after a trial before the Township committee.

In 1930, the depression struck the Township with a full vengeance. The Township committee took preliminary steps to give relief to the unemployed which finally grew into the present relief organization. At the same time, after a meeting of all patrolmen and superior officers of the department, Police Commissioner Robert L. Sattler was informed that the members of the Woodbridge Township Police Department would voluntarily donate a percentage of their salaries for the relief fund for the unemployed.

As time went on conditions did not improve, in fact, they became worse. The legislature passed a bill allowing the municipality to cut salaries of police officers, a bill the Township took advantage of immediately. Cash became a scarcity and months went by before the police saw any real cash. Then baby bonds appeared, and the police, together with school teachers and other municipal employees, found it necessary to peddle their bonds to homeowners who were lucky enough to have cash to pay their taxes.

No further additions were made to the department during that period although death and retirement left the Chief short of men to fully patrol the Township as heretofore.



## Chapter 14.

In 1931, after the additions to the police force, Chief Murphy made plans for a complete reorganization of the police department. He outlined his plans to the Township committee and the first step was finally taken on June 22, 1931, when Desk Sergeant George Keating was elevated to the rank of detective sergeant. With that move, Motorcycle Officer George Balint was promoted to desk sergeant to take Keating's place and Joseph Grady was advanced to the traffic division to take over Balint's motorcycle post.

Affairs went smoothly for a while. Keating, together with Captain James Walsh, broke many cases and an enviable record was established. Then, Chief Murphy became ill. At first his illness was not taken seriously, but then the members of the force became aware that the end was near when their beloved chief was taken to the hospital. On January 18, 1932, the "grand old man of the police department", died. His funeral was one of the largest ever held in the Township. Municipal police from scores of surrounding towns and State police, in addition to prominent figures in political life, all gathered to pay their last respects.

The late Father Richard O'Farrell left his sickbed to preach the sermon at his friend's funeral. It was a tearful farewell the people of Woodbridge gave Chief Murphy.

On February 1, 1932, James Walsh was appointed Chief of Police of the Township of Woodbridge at a regular session of the Township of Woodbridge committee. The following September, Motorcycle Officer Joseph Lewis was fatally injured while chasing speeders. In December 1933, John Cholar, a member of the traffic division, was placed on the retired list at his own request.

At the November, 1933, election, the Democratic administration was defeated at the polls and on December 8, a few weeks before the Republican regime was to take over the reins of the municipality, the committee named Joseph Casale and Daniel C. Panconi, as patrolmen of the third class. Panconi and Casale were given the necessary equipment by Chief Walsh and were assigned to "rookie duty" but on New Year's Day, 1934, when the new administration was organized, Panconi and Casale were removed from the police lists by the following resolution introduced by Committeeman Harry E. Gagne:

"Whereas, by the minutes of a meeting of the Township Committee held on the 8th day of December, 1933, it appears that one Joseph Casale and one Daniel Panconi were appointed by resolution as members of the Police Department of the Township of Woodbridge and

"Whereas, at the time of said appointment of said Casale and Panconi, there had been no previous provisions made in the police appropriation included in the 1933 budget whereby funds were available for new and extra appointments of said police department and

"Whereas, the finances of the Township of Woodbridge do not warrant an increase in the police personnel and

"Whereas, the appointments of said Casale and Panconi as aforesaid were and are now unnecessary for the proper government of the Township, now therefore,

"Be it resolved that the action taken at the meeting of the Township Committee held December 8, 1933 in appointing Daniel Panconi and Joseph Casale as members of the police department be and the same is hereby revoked and rescinded....."

The year 1934 was a quiet one as far as the police department was concerned, but in 1935, when John Hassey became police commissioner things began to hum again. In the early part of 1935, the committee purchased the present ambulance and patrol for the sum of \$1,580.

On April 15, 1935, Hassey introduced a motion authorizing the advertising for bids for a two-way radio system for the department, with bids to be received on May 6. At that meeting the Taxpayers' association asked the committee to defer opening of bids until June 3, which request was granted. On the latter date, bids were opened as follows: General Electric Company, \$5,008; Federal Laboratories, Inc., \$5,762.50. Graybar Electric Company, \$7,137. The bid of Federal Laboratories, Inc., was accepted and the General Electric low bid was turned down "because, according to Hassey, it did not come up to specifications." The system went into effect on September 1, 1935, but the system was changed sometime later because the original one was not powerful enough for the territory it had to cover.

At first, two officers were placed in each radio car, but in October, at the request of the Woodbridge Township Taxpayers' Association, the policy was changed and one patrolman was assigned to each radio car.

A short time later an arson case occurred on Fulton Street that was quickly solved by Keating. On December 6, 1935, a communication was received by the Township committee from the National Board of Fire Underwriters addressed to the police commissioner praising the work done by the Woodbridge police department "in the recent arson case" and especially referred to "the splendid work of George Keating."

On December 16, 1935, George Keating was promoted to the position of Captain of Police, Senior rank; John Egan was made Captain of Police, Junior rank and A. P. McDoane; was given the position of record clerk. Keating was placed in charge of records, fingerprinting, photography and detective work. Egan was given charge of the radio division.

James Schaffrich became police commissioner on January 1, 1936. On May 10, 1936, Adeline B. ...



During the summer of 1936, Schaffrick and the rest of the committee disagreed over promotions. The police commissioner attempted to promote George Balint to the rank of Lieutenant Detective only to be informed by the Township Attorney that such an action would be illegal due to the fact that there is no such rank listed in the Township Police Ordinance. Balint, however, was placed in plain clothes by Schaffrick, "temporarily".

On the last day of March, 1937, Chief of Police Walsh died suddenly at his home following a heart attack. Walsh had suffered previous attacks but his death came as a shock to the community as he had left headquarters that evening apparently in the best of health and spirits.

At the following meeting of the Township committee on April 5, 1937, George Keating was unanimously appointed Chief of Police. The same evening, the Township committee and Township Clerk B. J. Dunigan went to Keating's home and the clerk gave him the oath of office.

Scores of letters were received by the committee praising it for its choice of police chief. Among the letters was one from the National Board of Five Underwriters.

Financial conditions in the Township evidently improved in 1937, for in June of that year, the 20 per cent pay cut was restored to the police department.

In 1938, Herbert B. Rankin, of Sewaren, became police commissioner and on February 21, Joseph Casale was reappointed to the department. On June 27, Daniel Panconi was reappointed and Stephen Feiertag was named patrolman of the third class.

On February 6, 1939, Andrew Silonsen was promoted to Desk Sergeant; Frank Miller was advanced to Rounds Sergeant and Joseph Sipos was named patrolman of the third class. On February 20, Karney Romano, after two hearings before the Township committee, was permanently relieved from duty.

Promotions came thick and fast and so did appointments. On May 15, 1939, Frank Szallan, of the Second Ward, was appointed to the force. On June 5, 1939 (to become effective, July 1) John Egan was advanced to Captain of Police, Senior rank; Benjamin Parsons was made Captain of Police, Junior rank; George Balint was promoted to Detective Sergeant and Carl Sunquist and Wilhelm Brown were made desk sergeants.

After the passage of a necessary ordinance, Allan P. McDonnell was given the rank of sergeant in the second department. The final promotions to date were made on August 21, 1939, effective September 1 when Joseph Farkas and Ciosindio Zuccarone were elevated to the traffic division.

Today, Woodbridge Township Police Department ranks among the highest in the state as to efficiency and equipment. Chief Keating is recognized throughout the state as one of the most capable men in police circles. He is known as a keen policeman and as a finger-print and photography expert.

It is a far cry from the days of 1898 when the two "Paddies" patrolled the Township, sometimes afoot and sometimes on bicycles. With 36 men in the present department, Woodbridge Township Police Department boasts of a two-way radio system, a police patrol and ambulance, three radio cars and a utility car, and a complete record department with finger-printing and "mugging" a specialty.

The personnel of the police department as of November 1, 1939 is as follows:

### Superiors.

Chief George E. Keating  
 Captain John Egan  
 Captain Benjamin Parsons  
 Detective Sergeant George Balint  
 Rounds Sergeant Frank Miller  
 Sergeant William P. McDonnell (record department)  
 Desk Sergeant Andrew Simonsen  
 Desk Sergeant Carl Sanquist  
 Desk Sergeant Wilhelm Brown

### Traffic Division. (figures are badge numbers)

Thomas Somers, No. 11, Patrol-Driven  
 Closindo Zuccaro, No. 34, Patrol Driven  
 Daniel Gibson, No. 2, motorcycle  
 Rudolph Simonsen, No. 24, motorcycle.  
 Joseph Gaily, No. 29, motorcycle  
 Meyer Larson, No. 28, motorcycle  
 Joseph Parkas, No. 30, motorcycle

### Patrol

John Lanton, No. 45	Anthony Peterson, No. 44
George Leonard, No. 19	Joseph CRSale, No. 46
Robert Egan, No. 7	Daniel Pancoji, No. 5
Joseph Einhorn, No. 8	Stephen Feiertag, No. 23
William Romond, No. 31	Joseph Sipos, No. 3
Joseph M. Dalton, No. 33	Frank Szallap, No. 42
Richard Levi, No. 36	
John Govelitz, No. 36	
Thomas Bishop, No. 35	
Paul Leilner, No. 39	
George Fink, No. 37	
William L. Egan, No. 40	
William L. Egan, No. 41	

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